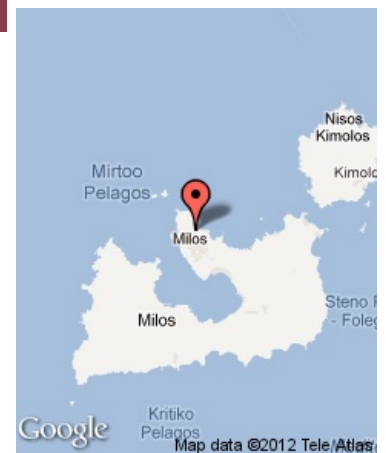


Sea Kayaking in Greece



Highlights

Be captain of your own ship – well, kayak – on this week long holiday on the island of Milos in Greece. Explore the coastline, get close to nature and paddle away on a different guided tour each day. Then spend the evenings relaxing at your own pace, strolling the cobbled streets of the island's capital, Plaka.

Milos is an island in the Cyclades in Greece – so expect a Mamma Mia-like setting of turquoise blue seas, matching skies and pale golden sands. Milos's main claim to fame is that it's the place where the Venus de Milo statue was found in 1820, but man-made artifacts pale in comparison when you set eyes on the Milos's natural beauty. Milos' moon-like landscape, where rocky crops of burnt reds, earthy browns and stark whites gel together, is as big a scene-stealer as any ancient artefact. And because you'll be sea kayaking Milos's coastline, you'll be able to go where most other boats can't.

Rod Feldtman – a Level 4 sea kayak coach with the British Canoe Union is your guide on each of your trips – so even if you're a complete beginner, you can rest assured you'll be in safe hands. Over the course of the six days of kayaking you'll have a choice of 12 trips to choose from. You can skirt the coast of Milos, taking in places like Tria Pigadia – a secluded beach with a natural spring, the Grandfather Cave – one of Milos' biggest caves, and the beach at the old sulphur mine. Or, if you're feeling more adventurous, you can paddle over to the island of Kimolos, or the tiny speck of Little Arcadia – an isle that hangs a few kilometres off Milos' northern tip.

Is it for me?

With many different sea kayaking excursions catering for different levels of ability, it doesn't matter whether you've never set foot in a kayak before, or whether you are more experienced. What you do need to be though, is a competent swimmer and have a reasonable level of fitness to paddle three hours a day. You'll be out all day, and while there will be plenty of generous stop-offs at beaches, and for exploring on dry land, you'll need to be happy to just get up and go in the mornings. That said, there's plenty of time to relax or head off by yourself when the sun goes down. Groups are kept nice and small (maximum of eight people).

This is suitable for families, couples, groups of friends or solo travellers – as long as you're happy on the sea, however children need to be aged 10 +. If you are an experienced sea kayaker, you might want to consider one of the expeditions either [circumnavigating Milos](#) or [paddling & exploring two neighbouring islands](#). paddling & exploring two neighbouring islands.

There is a mixture of single or double kayaks - you can discuss with Rod which type you would be best suited to. All of the kayaks have sealed bulkheads, waterproof hatch covers and adjustable footrests.

Accommodation

You'll be staying at Petrinela's guesthouse in the friendly village of Triovasalos, within walking distance (15 mins) of the historic village of Plaka, the island's capital and cultural centre. On the days when you are not sea kayaking, there are some magnificent beaches in easy reach (about 5 mins by car) or you can walk to the site where the Venus de Milo was found.

Your accommodation is in a comfy, guesthouse run by Rod's wife, Petrinela. Rooms have been designed in that pared-down, simplistic style the Greeks do so well. Think whitewashed walls, pine furniture and tiled floors. Each room has its own balcony with views across the village rooftops and surrounding countryside. There are just

Prices from

484 GBP (8 nights) per person

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seven rooms, so it's got a nice and quiet feel and they're all en-suite with air conditioning, plus some have their own kitchenette, too. For those who want to stay in touch with home, free internet access is also provided.

In terms of food, you'll enjoy a continental breakfast in the mornings, a morning snack and a packed lunch during the day, and in the evening you're left to your own devices. You're only a 15-minute stroll from Plaka, where you'll find plenty of tavernas and restaurants.

Itinerary

Each morning you will meet as a group at 9.00am for breakfast and to make a plan for the day. Departure is at 10.00am and you will return at around 5.30pm. Each day will involve 3-4 hours paddling with 2-3 generous stops, for skills practice, snorkeling or swimming, or just laying on the beach.

There are a number of different sea kayaking trips around Milos that range from 11 kilometres up to 17 kilometres, and it all depends on the conditions and ability of the group as to which ones you set out on. You can spend your time paddling around stretches of the Milos coastline, or paddle further afield to the islands of Kimolos and Little Arcadia. The guide leader, Rod, will make sure you're on the right excursion for your level.

In the evenings, after a hot shower, enjoy a drink in a cafe or take a stroll around the cobblestone streets of ancient Plaka. Then dine out at one of more than a dozen restaurants, all within walking distance (15min) of the guesthouse.

Details

Getting there

You need to fly to Athens and from there, you can get to Milos by either ferry or by plane. Olympic Airways fly to Milos twice a day during the high season, it takes about 30 mins and the views as you land are spectacular. These flights tend to book up quickly in the peak months.

Your alternative is to get a ferry. You will need to get to the ferry terminal at Piraeus (allow about 1 - 1.5 hours from the airport) by bus, metro or taxi. Once at the port, ferries run several times a day taking from 4 - 7 hours depending on whether you catch a fast or a slow ferry. Go to <http://www.milostravel.gr/> to see the ferry timetable and book online.

From the airport on Milos, the taxi takes 15 minutes and costs 12 euro. From Adamas (ferry port) it takes 10 minutes and costs 6 euro. From Adamas you can also take the bus to PLAKA, ask the bus driver to let you off at KAFENEIO PERROS.

Price includes

Six guided day-trips, all kayaking equipment, mask, snorkel and fins, tuition as required, eight nights accommodation in Petrinela's Guesthouse, eight continental breakfasts, six picnic lunches and morning snacks, cultural, historical and archaeological side trips and complimentary photos on a CD.

When is best

Anytime from March to November offers excellent paddling conditions: clear skies, calm seas, warm water and air temperatures. April and May is when the island is at its most beautiful, green after the winter rains and full of wildflowers. June, September and October have the perfect combination of moderate air temperatures and warmer water temperatures - perfect for swimming.

July and August are the hottest months - You are assured 13 hours sunshine, everyday and water temperatures above 22 degrees, perfect for lots of swimming and snorkeling. The warm summer nights are ideal for moonlight strolls and eating -out, and remember, you will all ways be comfortable in the air-conditioned guesthouse.

March and November see very few visitors to the Greek Islands; airfares from northern Europe are very low; and, as kayaker's, we virtually have the islands to ourselves. The mild temperatures of early spring and late Autumn are recommended if you are more interested in kayaking than swimming and are perfect for longer expeditions.

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed

Travellers should bring

For paddling, shorts and a t-shirt is all you need. Lycra or other quick dry materials are advantageous. A long sleeve shirt is ideal for sun protection. A hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and drinking water are essential. Towels are provided in the guesthouse, but you will need to bring beach towels with you.

Reviews (11)

Reviews of this experience

“ Stable kayaks, powerful doubles in interesting paddling conditions.

geologically interesting coastline well explained by Rod. Wildlife somewhat sparse at time of trip, however, some surprises as well, particularly the number of Eleanoras falcons seen on all trips. Very friendly people everywhere in comfortable accomodation. ”

Catherine Morrison reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece

“ We really enjoyed our trip. It was a great introduction to Sea Kayaking and Milos has a wonderful varied coastline that is best appreciated by Kayak. We used the 2-man Kayak for some of the trips which helped when you wanted a lazier day. I completely agree with Angela's review already on site and add that Rod's a great photographer on the water. We also enjoyed relaxing in the guesthouse bar with the other kayakers after the day's paddling. ”

GavinStather reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece

“ We were absolutely delighted with our recent kayaking trip. Both your handling of the booking and Rod's handling of the week were exactly what we expected and it was all good!

I would rate your service as a 5/5 and cannot think of anything to suggest improvements.

We would also rate Rod's service as 5/5 and have already recomended it to a couple of friends if they were to do a similar trip.

Many thanks to you and Rod for making this a very stress free holiday. ”

LynnKitching reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece

“ We had a thoroughly enjoyable holiday - Rod Feldtman looked after us very well on the sea trips and as beginners we felt 100% safe at all times. Milos is a lovely island & we'll definitely return one day ”

StephenBrown reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece

“ Brilliant and varied trips for a whole week. The scenery was very different each day and there was a good combination of trips with caves and arches to explore and crossings to nearby islands. Lunches and snacks provided were good and the trips seemed suitable for both those with and without previous experience of kayaking. It was also nice to be able to choose single or double kayaks.,We enjoyed some very good food in the local villages in the evenings.A bonus was we were given a cd of pictures of our trip at the end. ”

Angela reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece

“ We had a fantastic holiday in Greece. The island was beautiful and Rod, Paul and Petronella looked after us very well. We met some great people whose company made the trip hugely entertaining.

I'd highly recommend the adventure. ”

ZoeF reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece

“ We had an absolutely fantastic time in Milos and have recommended it to many of our friends. ”

Chellie reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece

“ Amazing. I didn't expect to have so much fun. Each day there was something new to explore or see that was unexpected. Rod is the perfect guide and coach. Paddling conditions varied which also made for some interesting windy trips and some more serene calm ones. ”

Louise reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece

“ This was an absolutely brilliant holiday and pretty much ticked all the boxes - fantastic weather; lovely scenery; not too touristy and an activity that teenagers and middle aged adults alike would enjoy.

I had not kayaked before but Rod was so positive and encouraging that any feelings of apprehension were soon banished and paddling over the crystal clear waters and into the caves was fantastic. We all loved the snorkelling and jumping off the rocks.

On two of the trips we paddled home into the setting sun -so stunning!

The room we stayed in was basic but clean and comfortable and right above Petronella's cafe so great for ice creams and ouzo!!

Everything was so well organized but really relaxed and laidback at the same time. Generally we

set off at 10am which feels pretty civilized and then we'd be back by about 6.30, nicely tired and hungry.

We can't wait to go again! ”

Robyn reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece

“ This holiday is really great- I'm back in London now and missing the easy-going days of eating, paddling, swimming/snorkelling and paddling some more.

There are lots of different trips to go on and Rod (the guy who runs things along with his wife, Petrinela) tells you which you're doing at breakfast depending on wind and such like. One day we went to an old sulphur mine, another we spent going through lots of arches and into caves (Kleftico- my favourite day), another we paddled across to the nearby island Kimolos.

Ability doesn't matter. I started the week in a kayak with a rudder (easier for steering) and then 'graduated' to one without. I was happy just to paddle along and play about in the rocks but my brother wanted to eskimo roll and learn how to rescue people who fall in- Rod duly taught him to do so. There were some hardcore enthusiasts who practised their kayaking skills during breaks, folks on day trips only, and couples in two people kayaks. This meant group dynamics changed- sometimes the group would be speedy/fitter but on other days paddling was more leisurely (and Rod adapted as such). Either way I love the peacefulness of kayaking and Milos' beautiful coastline and gorgeous blue/green sea meant my holiday was pretty bloody fantastic.

The place where you stay is comfortable and clean and on your day off you can hire a buggy from nearby Adamas to whizz round the island on. Fun, fun, fun.

Caroline Harper, London UK ”

Caro07 reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece

“ Sunshine, warm blue seas, beautiful scenery, comfortable air conditioned accommodation and a grinning Aussie guide.We had come to Milos to paddle but the warm evenings, when the shops and cafes reopened after their long siesta, gave us time to glimpse Greece at its best. Milos is where many Greeks go for their holidays, and within easy walking distance of Petrinela's guest house is a labyrinth of picturesque lanes and alleyways, strung with fairy lights and flowers, tiny white-painted houses with colourful doors and balconies, and a wondrous array of artisan craft shops and relaxed restaurants (most with English translations in the menus). After dinner, if you have any energy left from the day's paddling, I would recommend the stroll up to the top of the hill to the castle, originally a lookout post for pirates, but now affording beautiful views across the whole island and unparalleled glimpses of the sun setting over nearby islands. I could feel my cares dropping away from me on the very first evening and soon felt more relaxed than I had done for years.

The scenery was amazing. Milos is volcanic and Rod (who came to Milos originally as a geologist) was able to explain about the fantastic rock formations, caves, arches and islands. Each corner revealed a new surprise: a tiny fishing village, a deserted beach, and a labyrinth of mining tunnels or a kingfisher flashing past.

The first few days were calm, time to get used to the boats and enjoy the scenery. The trips were long enough to make us feel pleasantly tired but nothing strenuous. Each day we had two lengthy stops, usually on a sheltered beach or rocky area good for snorkelling. After morning snacks of biscuits and chilled fruit I was amazed to find I still had room for the huge amount of lunch Petrinela packed for us each day.

(Rhoda Daniels Published in Canoe Focus in September 2008) ”

CanoeFocus reviewing Sea Kayaking in Greece